ISART Tutorial B: *SAFECOM*

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Abstract: SAFECOM's mission is to serve as the umbrella program within the federal government to help local, tribal, state, and federal public safety agencies improve public safety response through more effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications. Communications interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communications systems, exchanging voice and/or data, as authorized, with one another on demand, in real time, when needed.

SAFECOM is the first national program designed by public safety for public safety. As a *public safety practitioner driven program*, SAFECOM is working with existing federal communications initiatives and key public safety stakeholders to address the need to develop better technologies and processes for the cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks. SAFECOM harnesses diverse federal resources in service of the public safety community. The scope of this community is broad. The customer base includes over 50,000 local and state public safety agencies and organizations.

SAFECOM makes it possible for the public safety community to leverage resources by promoting coordination and cooperation across all levels of government.

This tutorial will briefly describe the SAFECOM program and its mission and go into depth on several major SAFECOM initiatives. These include the Public Safety Communications Statement of Requirements (SoR) and the Public Safety Architecture Framework (PSAF). Additionally, this tutorial will discuss the role for Research and Development efforts within the program and suggested topics for advanced research related to public safety communication systems.

Finally, one of the goals of the tutorial and the reason for SAFECOM's participation in ISART is to foster the ties to the ISART community in working towards solutions addressing technology gaps identified by the SoR and the PSAF.